

South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Web site: www.mva.sd.gov

Hiring Veterans Toolkit	2
TSGLI Payments	2
Farewell to Maj. Gen. Carpenter	3
VABHHCS Town Hall Meetings	3
Women Veterans Health Care Videos	4
VISN Network	5
WOW Open House	5
Upcoming Events	6
BNSF's Support for SD's Military	6



TSGLI PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR QUALIFYING SERVICEMEMBERS

Servicemembers who suffer severe injuries to the genitourinary organs will now be eligible for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection, or TSGLI.

Military doctors reported seeing an increase in these types of injuries, many of which are the result of the nature of current warfare and the use of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, by enemy combatants.

TSGLI provides a one-time payment to servicemembers sustaining certain severe traumatic injuries resulting in a range of losses, including amputations; limb salvage; paralysis; burns; loss of sight, and other traumatic losses. Genitourinary injuries for male and female servicemembers, are being added to the TSGLI schedule of covered losses.

The VA also provides health care for genitourinary problems, along with disability compensation for cases of service-related injuries or illnesses involving genitourinary organs.

The first payments for genitourinary losses will be made to eligible servicemembers and veterans on Dec. 2. Eligibility for these new losses will be retroactive to injuries incurred on or after Oct. 7, 2001, the beginning of the Global War On Terror.

For more information on all of the TSGLI eligibility requirements or to review the procedure guide, the list of service contracts and the application form, go to:

<http://www.insurance.va.gov/sqliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm>.

Traumatic Injury Protection Under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI)

A Procedural Guide

HIRING VETERANS TOOLKIT

The U.S. Department of Labor recognizes that employers sometimes find it difficult to navigate the plethora of veterans hiring resources available to them; so, they have developed a "Hiring Veterans Toolkit." The toolkit was developed to simplify the process and put valuable resources at their fingertips. It serves to pinpoint helpful tools and outline some important steps to take when designing a veterans hiring initiative that works for a particular business.

Recognizing that each employer is unique, DOL's guide allows a business to select from promising practices and other resources that employers are using to successfully welcome talented and skilled veterans into their companies. Whether they are looking to create a plan from scratch or re-tool existing efforts, DOL encourages them to reference this guide and design an initiative that works for them. More information can be found at: <http://www.americasheroesatwork.gov/forEmployers/HiringToolkit>.



MAJOR GENERAL CARPENTER RETIRES

The Army National Guard bid farewell this week to Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter after his 29-months of service as the acting director of the Army National Guard, and more than 44-years of military service.

A native of Sturgis, S.D., Carpenter's career began in 1967 when he enlisted with the South Dakota Army National Guard. A little known fact about Carpenter is that shortly thereafter he joined the U.S. Navy, where he attended the Defense Language Institute to study Vietnamese for 48-weeks. When asked what he can still remember of the language, Carpenter says, "That was a long time ago."

After serving a combat tour in Danang, South Vietnam, he returned to South Dakota where he was commissioned in 1974 in the Army National Guard. Over the next 35-years, Carpenter moved up through the ranks. An Engineer officer for most of his career, he went on to hold various titles, eventually becoming the acting director of the Army National Guard.

Challenging at times, Carpenter said his position came with a huge amount of responsibility, "but there is a great team within the Army National Guard and they are the ones who are really responsible for where we are today.

As he hangs his hat and heads out the door, Carpenter is confident in the future of the Army National Guard and knows that it lies in good hands with the new director.

For his future plans, Carpenter jokes that he is going to move in with his wife. He also plans to run the Army Ten-Miler and the Marine Corps Marathon next year. He hopes to stay engaged with the activities of the Army National Guard.



VABHHCS TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) will be holding public forums to discuss proposals for the improvement of veteran's health care services in western South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming.

These forums will give veterans, family members, community and business leaders, veterans service organizations, and County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers an opportunity to learn about proposed improvements, ask questions and to share ideas and concerns.

The dates and locations are as follows:

- Dec. 12 - Hot Springs - Mueller Center Theater (801 S. 6th St) - 6:00 pm
- Dec. 13 - Rapid City - Ramkota Convention Center (2111 N. LaCrosse St) - 7:00 pm
- Dec. 14 - Pine Ridge (location to be determined) - 9:00 am
- Dec. 14 - Gordon, NE - United Methodist Church (211 W. 2nd St) - 12:30 pm
- Dec. 14 - Scottsbluff, NE - Gering Civic Center (1050 M. Street) - 6:00 pm
- Dec. 16 - Pierre - Ramkota Convention Center (920 W. Sioux Avenue) - 10:00 am
- Dec. 16 - Eagle Butte - Landmark Hall - 4:30 pm

Additional information will be available soon at www.blackhills.va.gov.

NEW VA VIDEOS FEATURE WOMEN VETERANS

The VA has released a series of videos in which women veterans describe their experiences serving in the military, ranging from their significant contributions to national safety and security to the challenges they faced during their service and after returning to civilian life.

The three- to five-minute videos are part of the VA's ongoing "Rethink Veterans" campaign to increase awareness of women veterans and their vital roles in our nation's history. The videos and posters can be viewed at www.womenshealth.va.gov or on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/VeteransHealthAdmin>.

The four stories just released were recorded during the July 2011 Women Veterans Summit in Washington, D.C. Women from all eras, conflicts, and service branches were invited to share their experiences. The VA plans to release several video vignettes over the next few months.

The first four videos include an Army Reservist who served nine years stateside before deploying to Iraq post-9/11, a Vietnam War era nurse who returned from combat with a new sense of family, a Navy Veteran who advocates for expanded roles for women in the military, and Brigadier

General Wilma Vaught, the first woman to deploy with a Strategic Air Command bomber unit. The videos are meant to increase awareness of women's roles in the military among VA staff and the public.

Women veterans make up 1 percent of veterans, 15 percent of active duty service members and nearly 18 percent of guard and reserve forces. As the number of active duty women increases, so does the number of women veterans using their VA benefits. The VA is working to enhance access

and services for women veterans at all VA facilities and change the VA culture to be more understanding and accommodating of women veterans.

In addition to the videos, the VA recently released a 60-second public service announcement (PSA) about women in the military. The PSA is available for viewing

on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_profilepage&v=BOP5DCgixPE and www.womenshealth.va.gov.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

STORIES OF SERVICE

WOMEN IN THE U.S. MILITARY



WOMEN VETERANS SPEAK
Hear their stories,
in their own words »

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

which one
is the
veteran?

Both.
It's our job to give every vet
the best care anywhere.



WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE



**NEW PSA VIDEO
AND POSTERS
RECOGNIZE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF
WOMEN VETERANS**

1 2 3 4

▶ || i

WOMEN OF WAR OPEN HOUSE

The Belle Fourche Women in War project will have an open house at the administration building on campus from 1:00 pm—4:00 pm on Saturday, December 10. Visitors will be able to see the dormitory facilities and the job training center.

The WOW thrift store will also hold an open house on Saturday afternoon.

VISN NETWORK INFORMATION

VA MIDWEST HEALTH CARE NETWORK – VISN 23

VA Black Hills Health Care System

www.blackhills.va.gov

Fort Meade Campus

113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741
(605) 347-2511
(800) 743-1070

Hot Springs Campus

500 N. 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
(605) 745-2000
(800) 764-5370

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

www.siouxfalls.va.gov

2501 W. 22nd Street
PO Box 5046
Sioux Falls, SD 57117
(605) 333-6842
(800) 316-8387

Fargo VA Health Care System

www.fargo.va.gov

2101 Elm Street
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 239-3700
(800) 410-9723

Iowa City VA Health Care System

www.iowacity.va.gov

601 Highway 6 West
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 338-0581
(800) 637-0128

VA Central Iowa Health Care System

www.centraliowa.va.gov

3600 30th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 699-5999
(800) 294-8387

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

www.minneapolis.va.gov

One Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55417
(612) 725-2000
(866) 414-5058

St. Cloud VA Health Care System

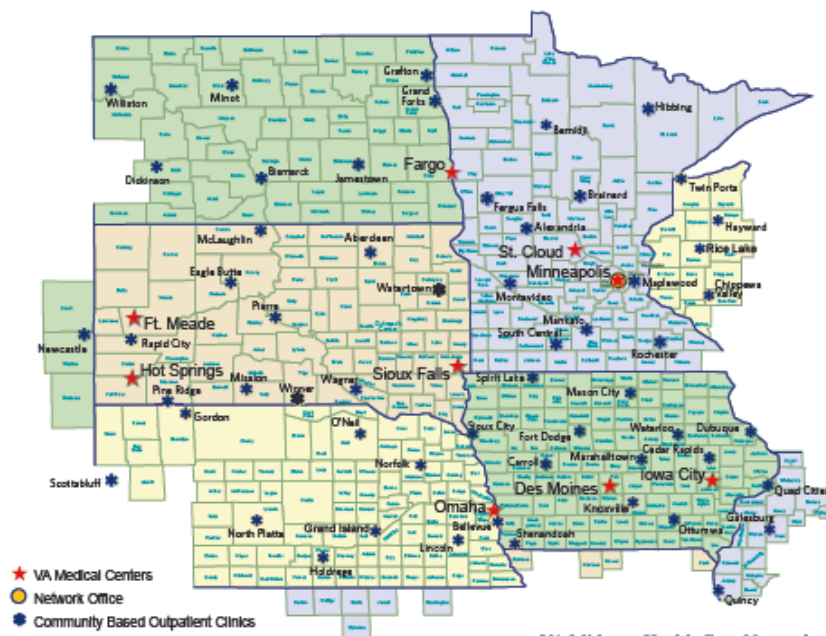
www.stcloud.va.gov

4801 Veterans Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 255-6480
(800) 247-1739

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

www.nebraska.va.gov

4101 Woolworth Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105
(402) 346-8800
(800) 451-5796



★ VA Medical Centers
● Network Office
● Community Based Outpatient Clinics

4/4/2011

VA Midwest Health Care Network



BNSF'S COMMITMENT TO THE MILITARY SHINES BRIGHTLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Wednesday afternoon about 350 area families climbed aboard the 13 vintage decorated Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail cars at the Sioux Falls depot for an hour-and-a half-ride toward Crooks and back to Sioux Falls.

The event was aimed at saying thanks to military members and their families, as well as providing military families a chance to relax with holiday snacks and visit with Santa.



In addition to the train ride, BNSF also donated a total of \$20,000 to two veterans outreach groups: \$10,000 to "Operation Cares" and another \$10,000 to "South Dakota Military Youth Activity".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 10—National Wreaths Across America Remembrance

Dec. 10—WOW Open House—Belle Fourche

Dec. 12 - VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Hot Springs - Mueller Center Theater – 6:00 pm

Dec. 13 - VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Rapid City - Ramkota Convention Center - 7:00 pm

Dec. 14 - VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Pine Ridge (location to be determined) - 9:00 am

Dec. 14 – VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Gordon, NE - United Methodist Church - 12:30 pm

Dec. 14 - VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Scottsbluff, NE - Gering Civic Center - 6:00 pm

Dec. 16 – VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Pierre - Ramkota Convention Center - 10:00 am

Dec. 16 - VABHHCS Town Hall Meeting – Eagle Butte - Landmark Hall - 4:30 pm

Dec. 26—State Offices Closed

Jan. 2—State Offices Closed

Jan. 10—Legislative Session Opens

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us
Web site: <http://mva.sd.gov>

